

A MONOGRAPH

2

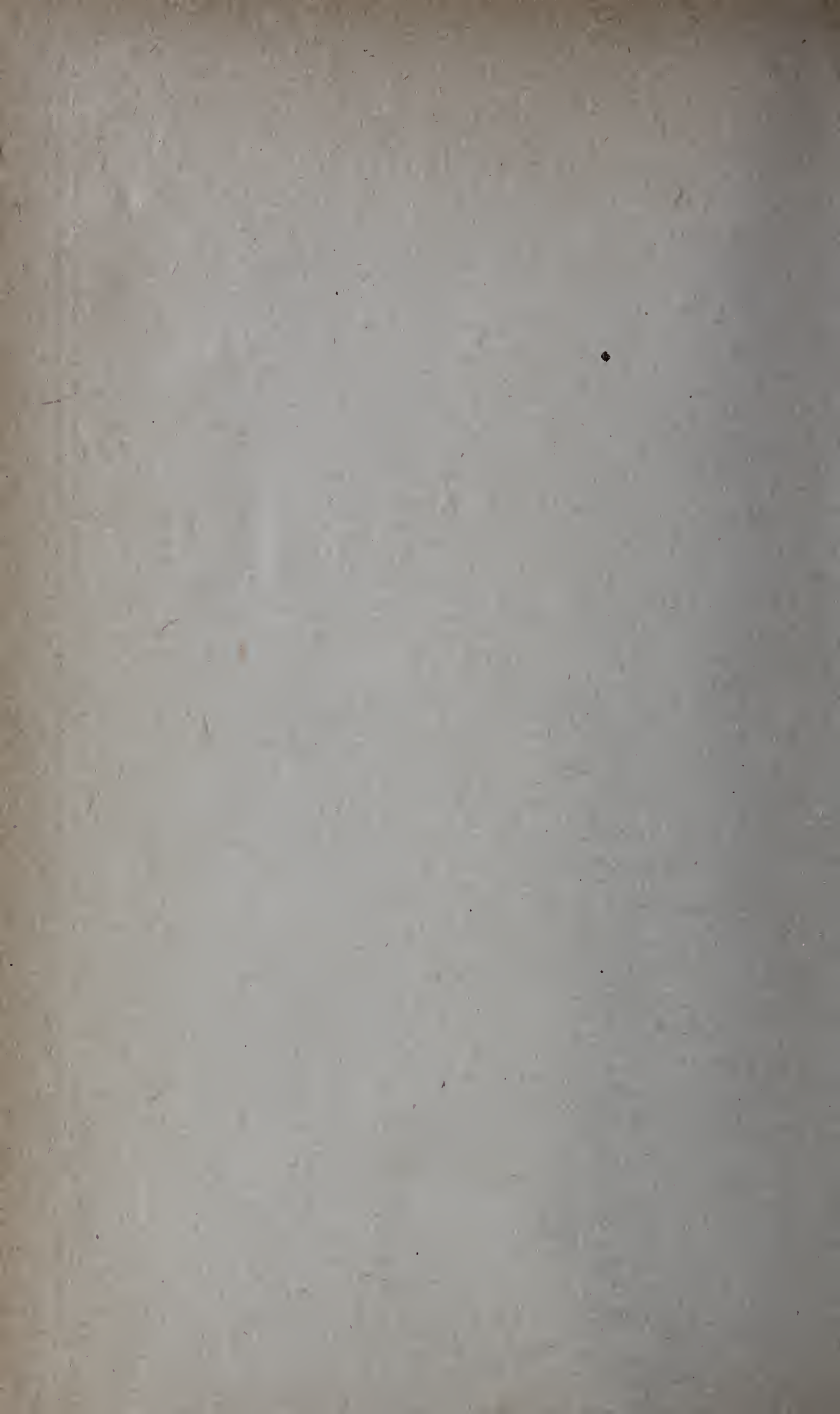
ON THE

Live Stock of the State of Indiana.

Prepared by Mrs. Virginia C. Meredith, at the request
of the Board of World's Fair Managers
of Indiana.

INDIANAPOLIS:

WM. B. BURFORD, PRINTER AND BINDER.
1893.



A MONOGRAPH

ON THE

Live Stock of the State of Indiana.

Prepared by Mrs. Virginia C. Meredith, at the request
of the Board of World's Fair Managers
of Indiana.

INDIANAPOLIS:
WM. B. BURFORD, PRINTER AND BINDER.
1893.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from

This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

LIVE STOCK IN INDIANA.

“Flocks and herds are the main props of great farming.”—*Dilke.*

“Whoever has bluegrass has the basis of all agricultural prosperity.”—*Kentucky Farmer.*

“Where the fuel of the world is, there will be its factories, and there the market for its food.”

Indiana extends from Lake Michigan on the north two hundred and sixty miles to the Ohio River on the south, and is one hundred and forty miles wide. Her ninety-two counties (except two) are traversed by seven thousand miles of railway. Her west and south section has seven thousand square miles of coal fields, while her east and north section has natural gas wells of tremendous capacity, unfailing and unlimited so far as human knowledge can forecast. In one year alone, one hundred and sixty-two factories, with ten million dollars capital, were located in the gas belt. This gas, unlike that of other sections, is found in Trenton rock *below* the sea level. Oil wells whose value has not yet been properly recognized are found in very many places.

Her agricultural resources have constituted Indiana's wealth in the past, and now, in the present, with factories and railroads, so big with promise of population and traffic, new demands are made upon her rich soil, which compellingly invites intelligent use and cultivation.

What of Indiana live stock? What of Indiana pastures and streams? What of Indiana corn?

We learn from the Government Bureau of Statistics of 1892 that the average value of Indiana horses is 13 per cent. higher than the average for the United States, that Indiana cows have a value 8 per cent. greater than the average for the whole country

while other cattle attain an average that is 27 per cent. better than in the country at large. Sheep stand at the very top of the list for quality, showing the average value in Indiana 43 per cent. higher than the general average; hogs have in Indiana a value 7 per cent. higher than in the whole United States.

During 1892 Indiana creamery butter, in car-load lots, out-sold that of other States in the New York market for export.

The foregoing facts warrant the conclusion that Indiana is well adapted to stock growing, and that superior results may be expected in this important line which is so intimately related to progressive agriculture, and which already represents an investment, within the State, of not less than two hundred million dollars.

HORSES.

The value of the horses of Indiana is almost equal to that of all other kinds of stock combined. The blue grass pastures and timothy meadows of the State will bear comparison with those of any section, and of late years the quality of the oats has been so improved that it is almost equal to that grown in the north, while the water supply is unsurpassed, being mostly clear running streams with gravelly bottom, which is the perfection of stock water.

Great care has been given to the development of the trotting and pacing horse, this impulse may be traced to the high character of the many pacing sires brought into the State in an early day—there is a long list, scarcely inferior in quality to Tom Hal and Blue Bull of more recent date. The fine country roads offered a crude but fairly adequate opportunity for training the promising colts and testing their speed and endurance.

There are at the present time twelve mile tracks in the State—and Indiana enjoys the proud distinction of holding the record for the fastest mile in both pacing and trotting.

When in 1891, Nelson made a new mark for stallions by trotting his famous mile in $2:10\frac{1}{4}$ on the Cambridge City track, local enthusiasm knew no bounds. Later, on the same track, Nancy Hanks trotted in $2:09\frac{1}{2}$, and Direct paced in grand and ideal style a mile in $2:07\frac{1}{4}$. But the most signal triumph of speed was celebrated in 1892 on the Terre Haute track, when the greatest race chronicled in turf annals was won by Guy,

with every heat better than 2:07½—but not to the winner went the glory of that race—one heat was won by Flying Jib in 2:05¾, while Mascot capped the climax of endeavor by pacing the fastest mile on record, in 2:04. The lustre of that magnificent event was matched, however, when, on the same track, at the same meeting, Nancy Hanks won the sceptre as queen of trotters by going in 2:04 the mile that has become historic.

It was peculiarly fitting that these splendid performances should occur at the home of Axtell, distinguished as being the highest priced stallion in the world, the long price paid for him, one hundred and five thousand dollars, gave golden emphasis to the alert spirit of Indiana horse breeders, and their confidence in the future of horse breeding in the State.

There are many breeding farms with standard mares, representing an immense investment of capital and enlisting the best brains in an investigation of the theories, and a demonstration of the science of heredity. The standard bred horses of the State illustrate a creditable combination of endurance, speed, size and beauty.

The taste that finds pleasure and gratification in a fine road horse is commendable and is, indeed, the basis upon which rests the profitable breeding of speed and coach horses. While mention has been made of the conditions that unite to produce fine horses in Indiana, it is relevant to mention also the character of the market as indicating popular appreciation. The combination sales, held annually in eastern Indiana, have, during the past three years, found buyers for twelve hundred and forty-five horses, at a general average of two hundred and eighty-five dollars, an average that has not been exceeded, when it is known that all ages and all grades have been catalogued. Of course the averages from the breeding farms run much higher.

The introduction into the State of the heavy draft breeds has been of comparatively late date, but the influence has been marked, and the patronage given to pure bred sires has been very satisfactory to importers. The force of weight in the horse that draws a heavy load has been properly estimated and so it comes that the Clydesdale, Shire and Percheron occupy a high place in public esteem and have had the intelligent attention of importers to a degree that has resulted in founding breeding establishments all over the State. While ordinary horses suffer in price whenever there is any depression in the

trade, yet heavy draft horses find in the transfer business of the cities' steady and constant demand.

The Cleveland Bay, French Coach and English Hackney have been received in limited numbers but with great favor, and are likely to help the trotting bred horse in solving that most difficult problem ever offered to horse breeders—how to produce large, stylish carriage horses with high knee action, and feet fit for city streets.

The following table of values compiled by the Government Bureau of Statistics is for the year 1892, and is a most favorable exhibit for Indiana:

	<i>Under 1 Year.</i>	<i>Between 1 and 2.</i>	<i>Between 2 and 3.</i>	<i>Over 3.</i>
Horses in Indiana	\$35.00	\$53.11	\$73.70	\$92.50
Horses in the United States	28.50	42.67	60.84	82.92
Mules in Indiana	37.23	55.22	76.93	95.50
Mules in the United States	33.96	49.95	71.11	92.80

MULES.

Mules form rather an inconsiderable part of the live stock of the State, but the fact that their average value is slightly more than that of the horses of the State, with the added significance that Indiana mules are estimated at a higher value than the general average of the country, would seem to indicate that the attention given to this branch of live stock industry has been most intelligent. There are in the State large and fertile farms devoted wholly to rearing and fattening mules for market. The largest mule farm in the State is conducted on much the same plan now in vogue for cattle feeding, the mules being kept in barns during the winter and fed unhusked corn fodder. The owners have found it profitable in a financial way, and there is something grateful and interesting in the sleek, fat mule, with his lively ear, which indicates bright alertness rather than the stupidity popularly and ignorantly attributed to him.

CATTLE.

The deep soil and gently rolling surface of Indiana combine in forming a basis for permanent, rich pastures of blue grass that are well adapted for maturing the heavy beef breeds of cattle. Nutritious grasses of every variety and the almost universal presence of streams of living water make profitable

dairying easily possible. Blue grass will grow every month in the year. Clover yields abundant and nutritious forage. The acreage in corn the past fifteen years has changed but little, being slightly more than three million acres. The 1888 crop reached the enormous aggregate of 128,436,284 bushels, showing possibilities of soil and realities of cultivation that need no comment. With the general tendency to utilize the stalk and blade (which contain about 45 per cent. of the nutritive value of the crop), as well as the grain, better results in the cheap production of beef will be secured—the silo, the corn husking machine and the cutting box each play a leading part in this economic conquest.

Statistics for 1892 give the number of cattle in Indiana as 1,742,824. Of this number only about 10 per cent. are named as of the improved or pure breeds, yet the diffusion of pure blood has had a marked influence upon the weight and quality of carcass and upon the production of milk and butter.

As long ago as in "the thirties" enterprising farmers began to draw upon the short-horn herds of Kentucky and Ohio, while in later years importations have been made directly from Great Britain, Holland and the Channel Islands, until at the present time there are many large breeding establishments in the State where may be found the best types of Short-horn, Hereford, Aberdeen-Angus, Galloway, Holstein-Friesian and Jersey cattle.

In reviewing the influences that have been helpful in encouraging the growing of improved live stock, great credit should be given to the State Board of Agriculture, which has, since 1851, uniformly offered prizes for pure-bred cattle, and which has also, since 1870, very materially assisted the organization of the breeders of the different classes of stock, until at the present time these organizations constitute a strong educational force in Indiana. Generous praise ought to be given to the pioneers of the cattle industry; they were men of exalted public spirit and admirable enthusiasm; they were willing to drive their cattle on foot a hundred miles in order to engage in friendly rivalry for prize cups—silverplate and not cash being the *honorarium* at the earlier fairs. The fact gleaned from the Government Bureau of Statistics, which has already been noted—that the cattle of Indiana average 27 per cent. higher in value than the cattle of the country at large—

is due to the influences just recited, and hence we find grade shorthorn, Hereford, Angus and Galloway cattle grazing in the pastures of the State. The four-year-old steer has given place to the two-year-old found in the markets to-day—a two-year-old which weighs as much as his aged predecessor, a two-year-old which has a better marbled carcass and a more toothsome loin, a two-year-old which has an improved digestion that will make profitable use of the blue grass, the corn and the clover of the farm. Too much praise can not be given to the enthusiastic and enterprising men and women who have championed the dairy interests of the State and developed its resources in this channel. The general adoption of scientific methods of handling milk and cream has kept pace with the wide dissemination of the dairy breeds. Creameries are in successful operation in almost every section of the State, while the butter from the farm grows better as the specialties of breed become better understood.

HOGS.

The farms of Indiana were paid for with money made in feeding hogs. Fifty years ago farmers would be seen driving their hogs to Cincinnati, the then great market; later, a slaughter and packing-house was the center of interest and the leading industry of the towns throughout the State; now, the railroad station, or more often the farm itself, is the market place, as the buyer, who is also the shipper, comes to the feeding lot. The two-year-old hog which could readily walk one hundred miles to market, has been succeeded by one which will weigh three hundred pounds at nine months old, if fed clover and corn, and his careful owner will guard against the loss of a single pound by hauling him in a wagon to the railroad station.

Of the 2,586,280 hogs in the State in 1892, it may safely be said that not one was without a cross of some improved breed. The pure-bred hogs of the State have a grand reputation, justly earned in close competition in the great show yards of the Middle States. The breeders and feeders of Indiana are men of pluck, enterprise and intelligence, as has been demonstrated by their eminent success in show yard competition, by the great weights attained, and by the singularly high average of prices made at public sales. On these three lines the swine

breeders of the State may successfully challenge all comers. Indeed, it is not too much to say that here swine breeding has been reduced to a formula—given breed, clover, corn and pure water, the inevitable result is satisfactory pork. These preliminary conditions are assured by the character of the soil and subsoil of Indiana.

SHEEP.

With no branch of livestock has Indiana attained a higher degree of success than in sheep husbandry. The excellent quality of the flocks is due not only to the intelligence of flockmasters and the enterprise of importers of pure breeds, but largely to the natural advantages of soil and topography.

Sheep have no instinct of home, and therefore require a shepherd. The pure breeds are so purely artificial and their value is so clearly based on that fact that the shepherd becomes an important factor in sheep husbandry. That the sheep of Indiana should be so good as to rate 43 per cent. higher than the average for the whole country is ample evidence of the superiority of the care bestowed upon them and of the favorable conditions present in the State. In order to thrive, sheep require to have dry feet—this requirement is adequately met in the high pastures of Southern Indiana and the tile drained central portion. The Indiana flockmaster astutely discovered long ago that sheep prevent rather than destroy weeds, hence he imposes no unequal task upon his flock, but gives it the short pasture it likes and thrives upon. With an increasing appreciation of the mutton quality (which inheres in breed apparently) and an improvement in wool bearing, the business appears to be upon a permanent basis for continued prosperity.

Some of the largest importers in the United States reside here and maintain notable flocks.

FISH.

The following is taken from the report of the Commissioner of Fisheries:

Indiana is possessed of a source of wealth in the fish which inhabit its lakes and streams, which is not generally understood or appreciated. There is perhaps no State in the Union which combines at once so large an area of lakes, rivers and

streams of a suitable character in which so many of the best varieties of fish for human food are indigenous. The sunfish family in a dozen varieties are natural to the waters of Indiana, and among them the two varieties of black bass are without a peer. Our lakes are the natural dwelling places of the large-mouthed variety, which are generally found in waters which are still and deep, while our rivers abound in the small-mouthed variety, which mostly affects running streams. While our waters are prolific in a great many other valuable varieties, the black bass are alluded to as giving, in their numbers and size, to the State a prominence in fish production equaled by no other State. The system of lakes in Northeastern Indiana is a very striking characteristic in the topography of the State. It is entirely safe to say that there are in the counties of Steuben, Dekalb, Lagrange, Noble and Kosciusko, more than one thousand lakes having an area of ten acres or over. There are, by actual enumeration, three hundred and twelve lakes in Noble County with an area of five acres or more, in every one of which nearly all the varieties of our best fish are found, and in almost all black bass abound.

An approximate estimate gives the shore line of the waters of the State as 30,000 miles. To assume that each mile of shore line represents ten acres would give us 300,000 acres of water within the State. The logic of these figures is simply this: The waters of Indiana have a capacity for producing annually 600,000,000 pounds of fish food.

It goes without saying that there is no substitute for fish food. The peculiar richness, delicacy and nutriment of the fish is not paralleled in the vocabulary of comestibles, and it adds a variety to our tables that nothing else can supply.

The following facts and figures relating to the live stock of Indiana have been obtained from the Government Bureau of Statistics, and are for the year 1892:

	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Average Value.</i>	<i>Total Value.</i>
Horses	725,256	\$73 61	\$53,388,703
Mules	56,841	76 39	4,342,014
Milch cows	657,048	23 25	15,276,366
Other cattle	1,085,236	19 28	20,925,529
Sheep	1,161,702	3 70	4,298,702
Hogs	2,586,280	4 94	12,787,061

The general average of value for the United States is as follows:

Horses	\$65 01	Milch cows	\$21 40
Mules	75 55	Other cattle	15 16
Hogs	4 60	Sheep	2 58

It will be seen from the above figures that the live stock of Indiana, when compared with that of the whole country, is decidedly above the average in value.

LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATIONS.

List of Organizations and Officers.

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

President	V. K. Officer	Volga.
Secretary	Chas. F. Kennedy	Indianapolis.

LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSION.

President	Adams Earl	Lafayette.
Secretary	Mortimer Levering	Lafayette.

SHORT HORN BREEDERS ASSOCIATION.

President	James M. Sankey	Terre Haute.
Secretary	W. S. Robbins	Horace.

TROTTING AND PACING HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION.

President	Dr. Chas. E. Wright	Indianapolis.
Secretary	Horace Wood	Indianapolis.

INDIANA DAIRY ASSOCIATION.

President	C. S. Plumb	Lafayette.
Secretary	Mrs. Laura D. Worley	Ellettsville.

SWINE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION.

President Joseph Cunningham Loree.
 Secretary Cott Barnett Logansport.

WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION.

President John R. Tomlinson Fairland.
 Secretary J. W. Robe Greencastle.

POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

President B. F. Hill Indianapolis.
 Secretary A. E. Meredith West Indianapolis.

BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION.

President R. S. Russell Zionsville.
 Secretary Geo. P. Wilson Tollgate.

COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

W. T. Dennis Richmond.

STATE VETERINARIAN.

C. M. Stull, D. V. S South Bend, Ind.